

Work together, Play together, Learn together...Shine
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16

St George's School, Bourton



Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship Policy	November 2019	January 2022

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St George's School, Bourton **Collective Worship Policy**

In this school community, each person is valued and respected in the belief that all people are created and loved by God.

Collective worship is held according to the guidelines laid down in the E.R.A. of 1998. It is a nondenominational activity which reflects the "broad traditions and practice of the Church of England", as required by the Trust Deed. Worship (worth-ship – showing that God is worthy of our praise, admiration and respect) is a celebration of values held in central importance to a community – our pupils belong to the school community and our daily act of worship is a means of promoting those values.

Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to worship. It is attended by students, staff and any visitors in school, who are very welcome to come and join in.

At St George's School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide the time and space for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. We hope that all pupils will take part in our daily act of worship but respect the right of parents to withdraw their children if they wish to do so.

What are we aiming to do?

At St George's School, we view collective worship as a vital time when either the whole school or each class meet together to share in worship and each other's achievements.

We believe that collective worship should:

- Be an expression of praise and gratitude and a recognition of our vulnerability as humans.
- Provide an educational framework to encourage pupil's development.
- Be appropriate and relevant to all pupils, regardless of their personal or religious Commitment.
- Take into consideration the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils.
- Develop caring / sharing attitudes amongst the children and a very "special" community sense of belonging.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical awareness and wellbeing and help children to become sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world.
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, appreciating that people differ, yet should be valued, whatever their beliefs or culture.
- Provide the time for the experience of reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings – private time for

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staff and pupils without having to express opinions and thoughts.

How do we achieve our aims?

We endeavour to:

- Reflect the Church's year – e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost etc.
- Respond to other events either local or national, accordingly
- As appropriate, reflect the multicultural nature of society
- Provide opportunities for thought, silence and reflection as well as time for participation
- Encourage children to enter and leave the hall in a quiet, orderly manner
- Use appropriate language
- Use a variety of resources / people as appropriate

The Collective act of worship

Collective worship takes place daily, but not always at the same time

Day	Focus	Group attending	Lead Person	Time
Monday	Values and Special Events	Whole School & staff	Headteacher	10:50am
Tuesday	Values and Reflection Diaries	Key Stage together	Class teachers	10:50am
Wednesday	Values and Bible story	Whole School	Clergy or OTB Team	10:50am
Thursday	Singing / Meditation Worship	Whole School	Music Subject Lead	10:50am
Friday	Achievement Celebration	Whole School, staff & parents	Headteacher	2.40pm

The format of whole school collective worship

A cross and a candle in a special area are used as the focal point for each act of collective worship. Each act of worship is planned to include a selection of the main elements as detailed:

- A candle is lit to signify the importance of the special time together
- A formal greeting by the lead person to which the children respond
- The main focus of the assembly starts with child participation at relevant times
- A time for reflection related to the focus
- A hymn that relates to the focus where possible
- A prayer that relates to the focus
- The candle is extinguished by a child to signify the end of the special time together

The format of Key Stage Class Worship

Worship within the class provides an ideal opportunity to focus at an age appropriate level to the children within each class. In Key Stage One, worship is centred around the sharing and discussion of a book or story that links in to the overall theme of the week/term or that addresses an issue that may have arisen.

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Within Key Stage Two, Worship revolves round the following activities:

- Stilling
- Class diary of reflection
- Responding to local / national / international issues
- Responding / deepening the theme of the whole school worship

Planning the collective worship

The structure of our collective worship reflects the Christian beliefs and values, focussing on God, the Creation, Jesus and all God's people. Materials from other religious traditions, may also be used, e.g. poems, readings, stories, music, artefacts. Staff plan according to a chosen focus to ensure continuity and a variety of resources are used to supplement ideas. The plan for the collective worship theme for the term is recorded on a form by the co-coordinator for worship and shared with the staff. Opportunities are also provided for children to plan all or part of some worships. Each month there is a theme for Collective worship based on the school's core values, Christian festivals, and/or in response to major incidents in the local/global community. These are published at the beginning of each term. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship

The foundation governors have a key role in the process of monitoring and evaluating to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process and as such their views are sought regarding themes and content. This is achieved through our Shining Lights Group. The group meet once a fortnight with the Collective Worship Lead.

The role of the Collective Worship Lead

The Collective Worship Lead leads the process by which the focuses are chosen. S/he is responsible for developing the recording system and for maintaining and monitoring the central record ensuring all relevant staff are up to date with current guidance.

Right of Withdrawal

At St George's School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. If required, the school will establish suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.